

Town of East Windsor  
Special Town Meeting  
June 1, 2010

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of East Windsor was held at the East Windsor Town Hall on Tuesday, June 1, 2010. First Selectman, Denise Menard, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Dale Nelson and seconded by Gil Hayes that Denise Menard preside as Moderator.

Motion was made by Linda Sinsigallo and seconded by Jason Bowsza that nominations be closed.

Both motions passed unanimously.

Assistant Town Clerk, Mary Higgins, read the call to the meeting.

Moderator, Denise Menard, read the statement of eligibility to vote.

The following resolution (Item #1) was introduced and read by Cathy Simonelli:  
**Resolved:** To adopt an ordinance entitled, "Ordinance To Create and Become a Member of the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority". Cathy Simonelli moved the resolution, seconded by Gil Hayes.

Discussion:

Paul Anderson asked for clarification why the town was looking into becoming a member of CCSWA and not staying with CRRA. Denise responded that the contract with CRRA would expire in 2012. The Agency is beginning to evolve into a different type of agency and will be run differently. She has been getting information on the formation of the CCSWA for about a year. This group has been looking into forming an agency to oversee trash collection. The Board of Selectmen thought it was a good idea to participate. A major benefit of participating in this group would be to participate in competitive bidding for the town trash business.

Denise called the question. Motion passed to adopt the "Ordinance to Create and Become a Member of the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority".

Motion Carried.

The following resolution (Item # 2) was introduced and read by Jason Bowsza:  
**Resolved:** To adopt an ordinance entitled, " Ordinance Concerning Local Property Tax Relief for Certain Older Adults or Permanently and Totally Disabled". Jason Bowsza moved the resolution, seconded by Cathy Simonelli.

Discussion:

Paul Anderson: He has read the ordinance and suggested due to its complexity that any decision be postponed to allow more time to better understand and review the Ordinance.

Denise Menard responded that many of the people who worked on the Ordinance were present and may be able to answer questions to assist in further clarification. There were two Public Hearings held that were properly noticed and the matter had been discussed at a previous Board of Selectman's meeting.

Nancy Masters: The town is already concerned about collecting taxes. Is this a major request by the townspeople?

Jason Bowsza: 109 towns have similar programs. When he was campaigning for the Board of Finance in 2007 most people over 65 listed a top concern as property tax relief. This program is an option for people to apply for - not mandatory. It would be offered at the discretion of the Town - if no funds were available, the program would not be offered. It would be reevaluated each year.

Nancy Masters: How does the town recoup the monies distributed to applicants in our budget ?

Samantha Lee: There need not be a huge outlay of money for this program. If a person applies for the program that owes property taxes of \$2500, it is not the case that the entire \$2500 would be deferred. It probably would be a very small amount. The total amount set aside by the Town would be spread among the applicants. The property would be lienied for the amount given. Money would be recouped when the property changes hands. Eventually program would self fund itself.

Jason Bowsza: There are strict guidelines that must be met before the tax deferment can be given. A four-person panel consisting of Tax Collector, Assessor, Treasurer, and Human Services Director would oversee the program and conduct an annual review and report findings to the Board of Finance, which then can implement the program.

Carol Madore: If the Town does not have funds for any given year it will not fund the program for that year. Having worked on this task force for several years she found few people are willing to lien their property so applicants may be few, however for those who have no alternative this is program an option for them to pursue.

Jason Bowsza: By adopting this Ordinance we can provide the Town with another tool to help provide tax relief. Now it would be put on the books and be available for future implementation. It would not have an established start date

Denise Menard: This program would not require a lot of additional work in the offices or burden to the taxpayer. This piggybacks off other programs. Put the program in place

now and have it ready for implementation when it becomes feasible. It will become a \$0.00 line in the budget until funded.

Samantha Lee: Liens would be put on property once a year. People would have to be current on taxes before they can be accepted into program. The lien would only be for the amount deferred. It could be a small amount. When property transfers the loan would have to be repaid.

Marie DeSousa: She is in favor of the program. Many previous Town administrations have reviewed tax incentives looking into programs such as this but have not moved forward. This program should be moved forward when the Town has the money.

Steve Moule: Taxes will be deferred for several years. \$100 today will not have the same value several years from now. When the properties are transferred the original liens will be repaid however the Town has essentially lost money. The fund never grows. How can the Town be sure someone isn't taking advantage of the program?

Samantha Lee: Fund is not a line item in the budget. If initial fund is paid out and the Town does not choose to continue the program when the properties are transferred the deferred payments will be paid back. If no other amount is funded the program stops.

Rand Stanley: He is not opposed to the program. The way the State handles property tax problems is key to helping individuals. Suggested folks contact their State representatives to look at revamping/revising how property taxes are assessed and utilized.

Cathy Simonelli: responded to comment on someone taking unfair advantage of the system. She would rather help the 99 who are honest and truly need the help. She strongly suggests the Town get private donations for this program.

Jason Bowsza: Several concerns have been raised and in trying to push this program forward a great deal of research has been done to see what has worked and failsafes have been put in place to make this program successful.

John Burnham: These programs usually start small but escalate. It will add work to the town offices. Guidelines stress income. People can manipulate documentation and qualify for the program when in effect their net worth is substantial. Net worth is not a criteria for the program. He agrees with Cathy Simonelli that it should be a non-profit proposition.

Kris Bowsza: Lots of speculation being done here. The idea is to get the ordinance on the books so that in the future it can be implemented and moved forward.

Gil Hayes: The purpose of the ordinance is to get it on the books and be ready for implementation when necessary.

Nancy Masters: This is based on income – not wealth.

Carol Madore: There is no asset test for relief. Gross adjusted income and non-taxable income are key criteria.

Jason Bowsza: The Ordinance establishes a new tool for the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance to offer aide to the taxpayers.

Paul Anderson: Taxpayer money would be used to fund this program. If liens are kept on the books for a long period of time the taxpayers do not get any return on their money.

Denise called the question – Motion passed – 11 Yes 10 No

The following resolution (Item #3) was introduced and read by Paul Anderson:

**Resolved:** To transfer \$500.00 from the Contingency fund (1-01-50-8410-8-890-0000-0) to the professional services line (1-01-10-1020-3-330-0000-0) in the Town Auditor budget (1020). Paul Anderson moved the resolution seconded by Gil Hayes.

No discussion. Resolution Passed.

The following resolution (Item #4) was introduced and read by Marie DeSousa :

**Resolved:** To transfer \$300.00 from the Contingency fund (1-01-50-8410-8-890-0000-0) to the recording secretary line (1-01-10-1135-1-110-0000-0) in the Board of Finance budget. (1135) Marie DeSousa moved the resolution seconded by Dale Nelson.

No discussion. Resolution passed.

The following resolution (Item #5) was introduced and read by Kathy Pippin :

**Resolved:** To transfer \$891.00 from the Contingency fund (1-01-50-8410-8-890-0000-0) to the GASB-45-OPEB line (1-01-10-1020-3-336-0000-0) in the Town Auditor Budget. (1020) Kathy Pippin moved the resolution, seconded by Gil Hayes.

Discussion: Denise Menard clarified Paul Anderson's question that the purpose of the request is for payment of legal fees owed to Robinson & Cole regarding work done on the pension funding process this year and post employment line.

John Burnham: Does Contingency fund ever get to 0?

Denise Menard: The Fund is used to handle bills that occur toward the end of the fiscal year. If there is anything left over it is transferred to the General Fund. This occurs annually.

Resolution passed.

The following resolution (Item #6) was introduced and read by Richard Pippin :  
**Resolved:** To transfer \$1,485.60 from the Contingency fund (1-01-50-8410-8-890-0000-0) to the Advertising line (1-01-10-1070-5-540-0000-0) in the Advertising & Printing Budget. (1070) Richard Pippin moved the resolution, seconded by Ed Filipone.

Discussion: Advertising is for posting of legal notices. Resolution passed.

The following resolution (Item #7) was introduced and read by Dale Nelson:  
**Resolved:** To transfer \$1,014.40 from the Contingency fund (1-01-50-8410-8-890-0000-0) to the Printing line (1-01-10-1070-5-550-0000-0) in the Advertising & Printing Budget. (1070). Dale Nelson moved the resolution, seconded by Paul Anderson.

No discussion. Resolution passed.

Richard Pippin made a motion to adjourn the Town Meeting, seconded by John Burnham.

**The Town Meeting adjourned at 8:39PM.**

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Higgins

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_  
. Assistant Town Clerk